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PM gets stuck in to fix pothole problem

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE

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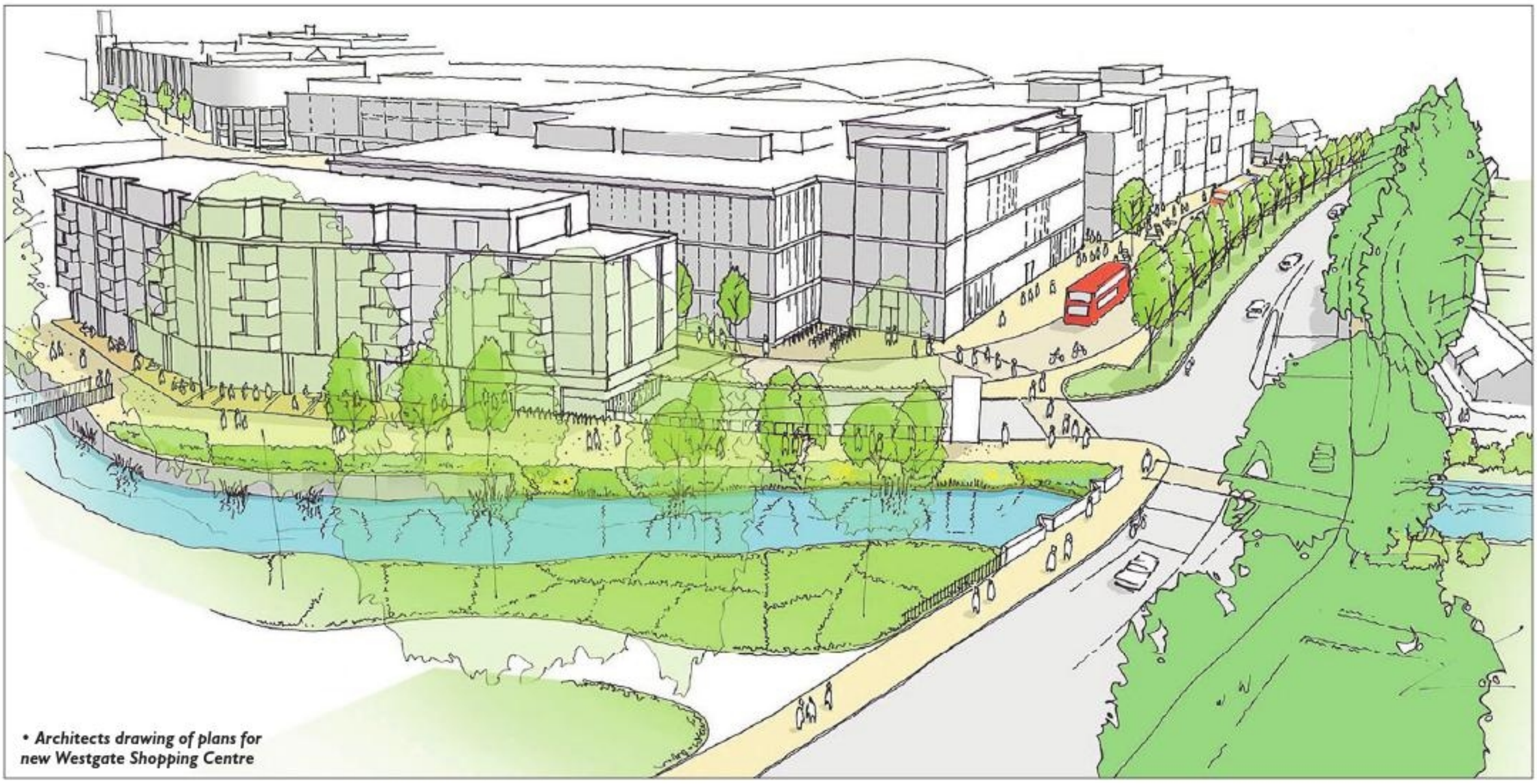
Hundreds view Westgate Shopping Centre plans



• *Architects drawing of plans for new Westgate Shopping Centre*

£500m REVAMP

MAJOR plans to redevelop the Westgate Shopping Centre were given the nod of approval by residents at a consultation which ended yesterday.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

More than 500 people visited the display of designs during the six-day consultation, which was held in an empty shop in the shopping centre, in Queen Street.

The Westgate Oxford Alliance, a joint venture between property companies The Crown Estate and Land Securities, revealed detailed designs for the £500million redevelopment last Friday.

Earlier this year, Oxford City Council's West Area Planning Committee granted planning permission for outline plans to redevelop the centre with shops, restaurants, cafes and a cinema.

Department store John Lewis is already secured as part of the development and will overlook Castle Mill Stream.

"The reaction has been really good," said Claire Reynolds, development marketing manager for the Alliance.

"We have had lots of feedback. It is nice for people to see the buildings now."

The shopping centre will be expanded into four different buildings, set in a mix of covered streets, arcades, lanes and squares.

Members of the public will be able to access the centre from 11 different entrances.

• *Continues on page 3*

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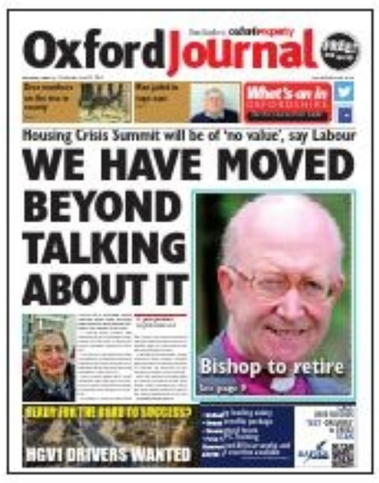
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Candidates revealed for May elections

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

RESIDENTS of Oxford have their chance to choose who will represent them for the next four years this month.

Candidates for this month's Oxford City Council were announced last week.

Half the council – 24 wards – is up for election on May 22.

On the same day, residents will also be asked to vote for their Members of European Parliament, and residents of Old Marston can vote for 12 vacancies to Old Marston Parish Council.

In total, 112 candidates are fighting for the 24 wards up for grabs in the city.

In the European Parliament elections, Oxfordshire falls under the south-east region.

The south-east region will elect 10 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) out of 119 candidates who have put themselves forward.

In Old Marston, 14 candidates are vying for 12 seats.

A by-election will also be held on the same day for the second Summertown seat on the city council, following the resignation of Liberal Democrat councillor Stuart McCready on April 3.

City council leader Bob Price is up for election in the Hinksey Park ward as a Labour candidate.

He is also calling for residents in Oxford to vote in the European elections.

He said: "Elections for the European Parliament have historically had pretty low voter turn outs, but European legislation has made some big differences to our lives and will continue to do so.

"It is up to voters across the 20 nations of the EU to ensure that the parliament creates a framework for job creation, for vigorously tackling the causes and effects of climate change, and promoting healthy and active lives."

Catherine Bearder, current Liberal Democrat MEP for the south-east, is standing for re-election.

She said: "It is vital people in Oxfordshire vote in the European elections this May.

"An estimated 36,000 jobs in Oxfordshire depend on our continued membership with the EU – if people want to protect jobs and ensure continued investment in the county, they need to vote.

"Democracy is terribly vulnerable. You have to vote, or someone else will make the decisions for you."

Katharine Harborne, deputy chairman of the Oxford East Conservatives and candidate for the Quarry and Risinghurst ward, is hoping for a better Conservative showing in Oxford at the upcoming elections.

She said: "Oxford has until now been seen as a lost cause for the Conservatives, but I would like to think that the Tories can win here.

"The fact remains, however, that winning requires a swing of such tectonic proportions that Ed Miliband would lose the leadership of the Labour Party."

Spirits not dampened by weather for Prince Edward's visit to county

THE Earl and Countess of Wessex braved the wet weather during their visit to Oxfordshire at the end of last week.

Prince Edward, the Queen's youngest son, and wife Sophie, who was wearing a blue dress, visited Dorchester, Abingdon and Wantage last Friday.

The couple celebrated the 50th anniversary of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust at a ceremony at Dorchester Abbey.

They also enjoyed lunch at the Council of Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association at Edward Brooks Barracks, Cholswell Road, Abingdon.

Hundreds of schoolchildren welcomed the Earl and Countess of Wessex as they also opened a new £730,000 arts building at King Alfred's Academy, Wantage.

King Alfred's headteacher Simon Spiers said: "We were absolutely delighted to welcome their Royal Highnesses.

"We feel very proud of the students and the staff and we have really enjoyed their presence."

The couple were also due to visit Caterham F1, Leafield Technical Centre, Langley, but were forced to cancel as their helicopter was unable to take off in the wet weather.

• *The Countess and Earl of Wessex at King Alfred's Academy*

News Bites

Sixty years since Roger's record

IFFLEY: The 60th anniversary of Sir Roger Bannister's sub four-minute mile at Oxford's Iffley Road Track will be marked next Tuesday.

Sir Roger became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes on May 6, 1954, completing the distance in a time of 3:59.4.

A re-staging of the original athletics meeting was held for the 50th anniversary in 2004, but Oxford University Sport has said they will not be hosting a public event for the 60th anniversary.

New chief set to start next week

OXFORD: London Welsh have appointed a new chief executive officer ahead of the club's bid to return to the Aviva Premiership.

Mike Stevens, from Abingdon, who was previously the commercial manager at Leicester Tigers, will take up his new position at the Exiles on May 12.

Chairman Bleddyn Phillips said: "Following the recent announcement that we will continue to play at the Kassam Stadium, Mike's appointment further illustrates the club's determination to continue to play at the highest level."

Read next week's Oxford Journal for a full interview with Mr Stevens.

Man detained after jumping in the Thames

ABINGDON: A 20-year-old man from Oxford has been detained under the Mental Health Act after he had to be rescued by police from the River Thames in Abingdon on Monday morning.

Police were called to Abingdon Bridge at 9am about the man, who had jumped from the bridge and was swimming in the river. He was thrown a line by officers and taken to hospital as a precaution, but didn't suffer any serious injuries.

Fire crews to strike in county over pensions

FIREFIGHTERS in Oxfordshire will join their counterparts in the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) by going on strike this weekend.

The planned industrial action between midday and 5pm tomorrow, for 12 hours on Saturday from 2pm and from 10am to 3pm on Sunday are over a dispute with government about proposed pension reforms.

However, Oxfordshire County Council has said that every 999 call received will be responded to, with a mixture of non-striking and on-call staff covering locally.

If a serious incident occurs while crew members are on strike, then it has been agreed they would return to work if required.

Chief fire officer David Etheridge said: "I want to reassure Oxfordshire's public that every emergency call made to the Fire and Rescue Service during these scheduled strike periods will be responded to.

"We have a cover plan in place that we will use, which we have utilised well during previous FBU-called strike periods."

Rodney Rose, deputy leader of the county council, said: "There is little we can do in Oxfordshire to help resolve this dispute, as it is between the FBU and central government.

"We do locally have robust contingency plans in place that have worked successfully to cover previous strikes."

Vox Box

Richard Doney, 31, Kidlington, council worker

"It seems a reasonable idea. The proposed plans look alright to me. My views are not terribly strong on it, but it clearly needs doing."

Silva Jay, 47, Oxford, hotel manager

"It can bring more people here. It is a good idea. There are not that many shops at the moment."

Sukhdeep Punni, 33, Abingdon, unemployed

"It will be nice to make it bigger, but we don't really need a new cinema. It is good at the moment, I think it is fine the way it is."

City could get new dreaming spire

Shopping centre plans showcased

• (Top) The plans from Queen Street, (bottom) the current centre

• *From front page*

There will also be three public squares in the redevelopment

Bonn Square will be incorporated into the designs, and two new spaces - Middle Square and South Square - will be newly built in the revamp.

The squares are planned to run and host various public events.

An underground car park will also be built south of the shopping centre. The existing multi-storey will be demolished in place of the new buildings - an extension of the centre.

The revamp also includes 122 apartments off Abbey Place.

The Alliance is also thinking of building a spire at the Queen Street entrance.

"One thing that is up for debate, at the moment, is we have the potential to build a spire," Ms Reynolds said.

"Oxford is famous for its dreaming spires.

"Should Westgate have a spire or should we do something that is more of a modern interpretation of a spire?"

Feedback to the plans was positive on the city's streets.

Monia Lamzini, 26, from Oxford, said: "I think it will give us more options.

"It will bring in business as well. There are not many clothes shops. I don't shop here very often."

Georgia Buckingham, 52, from Oxford, echoed these thoughts.

"There are not many shops so I don't often use it," she said, "I usually go to Reading to shop. More choice is better."

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Peter Withers, 37, from Abingdon, feels it will help attract more tourists to the city.

"It needs something for the visitors. It needs to attract more people," he said.

"The universities attract people, but Westgate looks dated. It is not very appealing compared to the rest of the city."

Following a review of the feedback, a further exhibition is planned for June to show the progression of designs.

The Alliance hopes to submit an application after the second consultation and would expect a decision by December.

Work would begin at the beginning of 2015, with the development earmarked to open in Autumn 2017.

The Crown Estate is a property company whose profits go to the Treasury. The property they manage is owned by the Crown.

It has teamed up with Land Securities before to redevelop Regent's Street in London and Christ's Lane in Cambridge.

The Alliance is the leaseholder of the Westgate Centre which is owned by Oxford City Council.

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News Bites

Phone robbery

BARTON/BICESTER: Police have charged a 22-year-old man after two children were robbed of their mobile phones in Bicester last Tuesday.

The man, from Barton, Oxford, is alleged to have stolen the phone of the first victim in the early hours of April 25 on Buckingham Road, before robbing the second victim in a separate offence at 8.35am on Churchill Road. He is due to appear before Banbury Magistrates' Court on May 12.

Foodbank rise

OXON: Another 1,400 people in Oxfordshire turned to food banks for help last year, new figures have shown.

The increase of 51 per cent was recorded by foodbank charity The Trussell Trust.

It calculated from 2013 to 2014 a total of 4,353 people used foodbanks in Oxfordshire – up by 1,474 people from 2012 to 2013.

By-election vote

NORTH HINKSEY: Hundreds of residents voted for their three new councillors at a North Hinksey Parish Council by-election last week.

Chris Church, of Crabtree Road, Oxford, Emily Smith, of Sycamore Road, Botley, and Voirrey Carr, of Hurst Rise Road in Cumnor Hill, were all elected to the parish council positions.

Mr Church had 471 votes, Ms Smith had 403 and Ms Carr had 377.

They won the three seats out of eight candidates vying for votes last Thursday, April 24.

The by-election was held after three councillors resigned from their positions in March.

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News Bites

Helping hand

COWLEY: The British Heart Foundation (BHF) shop is looking for volunteers for a few hours each week.

The shop in Templars Square Shopping Centre, Pounds Way, is in desperate need for people to come forward and help merchandise clothes, work behind the till and dress windows.

For more information, visit bhf.org.uk/volunteer.

World cup fever

HEADINGTON: The official mascot for this summer's FIFA World Cup was in Oxford on Tuesday.

Fuleco the armadillo visited youngsters at Oxford Children's Hopsital in Headley Way with Oxford-born and former Arsenal defender Martin Keown.

The trip was part of a Continental Tyres roadshow launched in Liverpool on March 11 by former Reds and England striker Robbie Fowler.

Charity challenge

OXFORD: An ambassador of Charlbury-based charity SpecialEffect is running 100 miles from London to Oxford.

Andy Nuttall is taking on this year's Thames Path 100 challenge in under a day on Saturday.

Mr Nuttall has so far raised £519.000 for the charity, which uses technology to help people with disabilities.

PM gets stuck in to fix pothole problem

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *David Cameron with roads maintenance manager Ian McLellan in Long Wittenham last Thursday*

PRIME Minister David Cameron was in Oxfordshire last week to launch the bidding process for a £168million pothole fund.

Oxfordshire County Council is applying for more than £5m to repair the county's roads.

Mr Cameron met a team of highways workers in Long Wittenham to see the scale of the pothole problem.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth and cabinet member for transport David Nimmo Smith also joined the Prime Minister in South Oxfordshire.

Mr Cameron was shown how potholes are fixed by council contractor Skanska.

The council looks after 2,800 miles of road and fixed more than 36,000 potholes in the last year.

Cllr Nimmo Smith said: "I was pleased to be able to spend some time with the Prime Minister and for him to be able to see first-hand the problems we have here in Oxfordshire.

"The Government's latest funding announcement is very welcome.

"We will certainly be submitting a bid in order to boost our efforts."

Local authorities have until May 22 to apply for money.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin added: "Part of this government's long term plan is investing in our roads.

"Potholes are a menace for all road users, which is why this extra funding is provided in addition to the £10billion already committed for councils for road maintenance.

"I want councils to rise to the challenge and to reward councils who come up with new and better ways of making repairs quickly and effectively."

The 2014 Budget announced £200m for a pothole fund, of which £168m is now available to local highway authorities.

Young girl in hospital after car accident

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl hit by a car while cycling on a pavement in Cowley was left seriously injured last Saturday.

The collision in Between Towns Road happened at 10.50am on April 26.

The girl was hit by a red Hyundai crossing the pavement as it pulled out a car park onto the road, Thames Valley Police say.

She was taken by air ambulance to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headley Way, Headington, where she is being treated for her injuries.

Her injuries are thought to be serious, but not life-threatening.

The male driver was not hurt.

The road was partially shut for two hours while police carried out a forensic investigation of the scene.

Thames Valley Police could not give an update on whether anyone had been charged in relation to the incident.

Police are appealing for witnesses who have not yet spoken to them to contact PC Mark Gulliford from the Abingdon Roads Policing Unit via the Thames Valley Police enquiry centre number on 101.

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FEATURE

Gardening myths uncovered!

If you think ivy kills trees, watering scorches leaves and digging is always needed to control weeds, think again.

By Hannah Stephenson
news@oxfordhireguardian.co.uk

THE Royal Horticultural Society is putting the record straight on a number of old wives' tales which have worked their way into the gardening psyche.

Here, Guy Barter, RHS chief horticultural adviser, busts open some of the most famous myths.

Myth - Ivy kills trees

Guy says: " Ivy is thought to seldom kill trees of itself, but the presence of ivy indicates the very strong suspicion of root disease especially honey fungus doing serious harm to the host and allowing the ivy to flourish under the diminished canopy."

Myth - W ild flowers are easy.

Guy says: "Gardens are often just too rich and fertile for wild flowers so that the desirable flowers fade away and rampant grasses take over. Mixes of annual flowers that resemble wild flowers on the other hand are easy and highly beneficial to many insects and a wiser choice for fertile gardens

Myth - Water drops on leaves cause burning from the sun's rays.

Guy says: "To focus sunlight, a water droplet needs to be above the leaf, and this can very occasionally happen with hairy-leaved plants (French beans for example) but in almost all cases scorching is not caused by wet leaves. Spraying leaves with pesticides or liquid fertiliser in sunny conditions can cause harm, however, as the water evaporates and the chemicals become concentrated, so can harm foliage."

Myth - Ground cover plants save work.

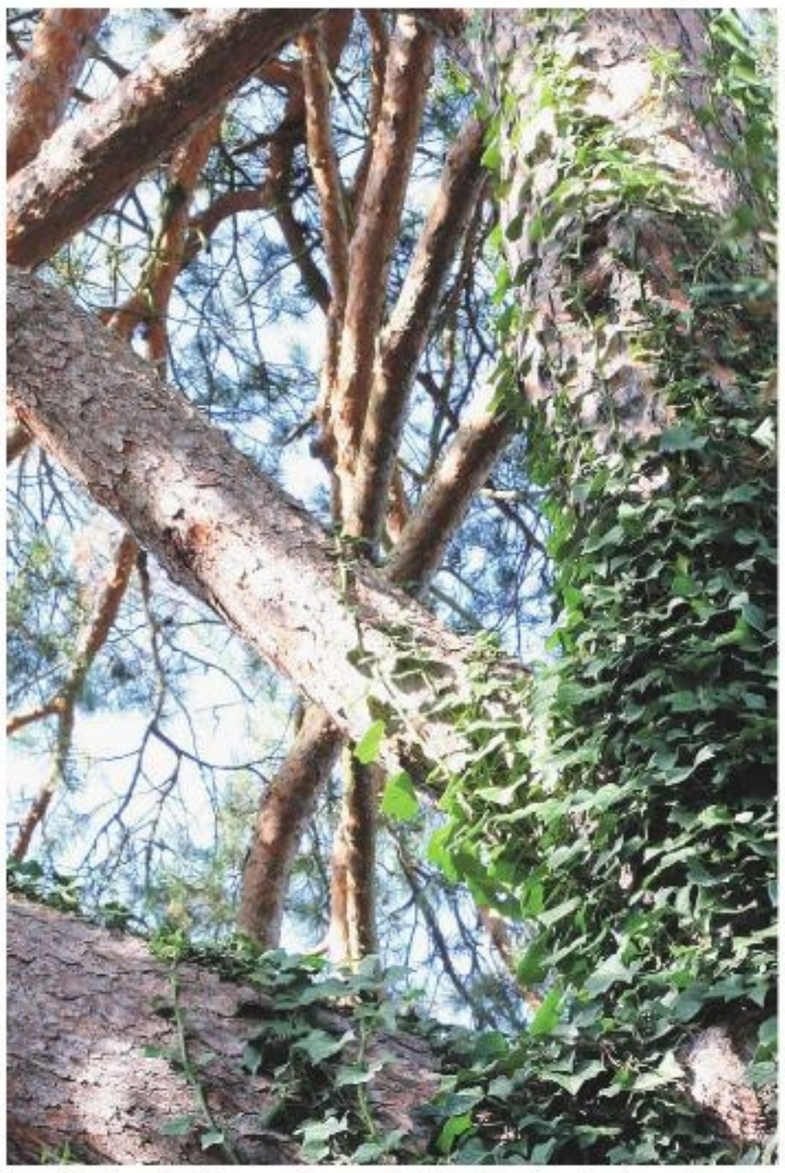
Guy says: "Depending on the type of plant you use, ground cover plants can soon become so thick that laborious pruning and thinning is required. Sooner or later perennial weeds set up camp in ground cover and have to be winkled-out by hand as weedkillers and hoes cannot be used. Around trees and shrubs ground cover acts as a particularly pernicious 'weed' unless carefully controlled."

Myth - Digging is required to control weeds.

Guy says: "The main reason for digging weeds is control, as burial of weeds is highly effective. But if weeds are controlled by other means such as mulches, herbicides or shallow hoeing, digging can be dispensed with. The only fly in this ointment is that sometimes weed control by other means can take longer and be harder work than digging, so it is not necessarily true for every site."

Myth - Raised beds are best for growing crops.

Guy says: "R aised beds are a great idea for ill-drained clay soils in wet regions where they enhance drainage and make avoidance of compacting wet soil by trampling easier. But on other soils they enhance drainage to the point of drought (greatly increasing drought susceptibility) and impede flexibility in cropping as sprawling plants are hard to include in a strict defined bed. Therefore gardeners may do a lot of hard work at considerable expense for fewer crops."



Ivy (Hedera helix) growing up the trunk of a pine tree. Ivy is thought to seldom kill trees of itself, but the presence of ivy indicates the very strong suspicion of root disease. Pic: PA Photo/RHS /Leigh Hunt

Wooden raised bed constructed from sleepers. Raised beds are a great idea for ill-drained clay soils in wet regions, but on other soils they enhance drainage to the point of drought. Pic: PA Photo/RHS/John Trenholm.

Myth - Moss is always a nuisance in gardens.

Guy says: "Moss is a sign that the soil is moist for prolonged periods. This happens when the soil is compacted, acidic or shaded. Moss has no roots and therefore cannot compete significantly with plant roots. In beds and borders it is a useful cover suppressing weed germination and limiting water loss. In lawns moss can indicate areas where perhaps grass should not be grown, under shade for example, where alternative plantings might be required. As moss cannot withstand treading, the presence of moss in lawns can indicate a lack of traffic and suggest that as access is not required then alternatives to lawns can be sought."

Myth - Plants like being spoken to.

Guy says: "With neither ears nor language it seems improbable that the spoken word has much effect on plants, although it may be therapeutic to the chatting gardeners themselves!"

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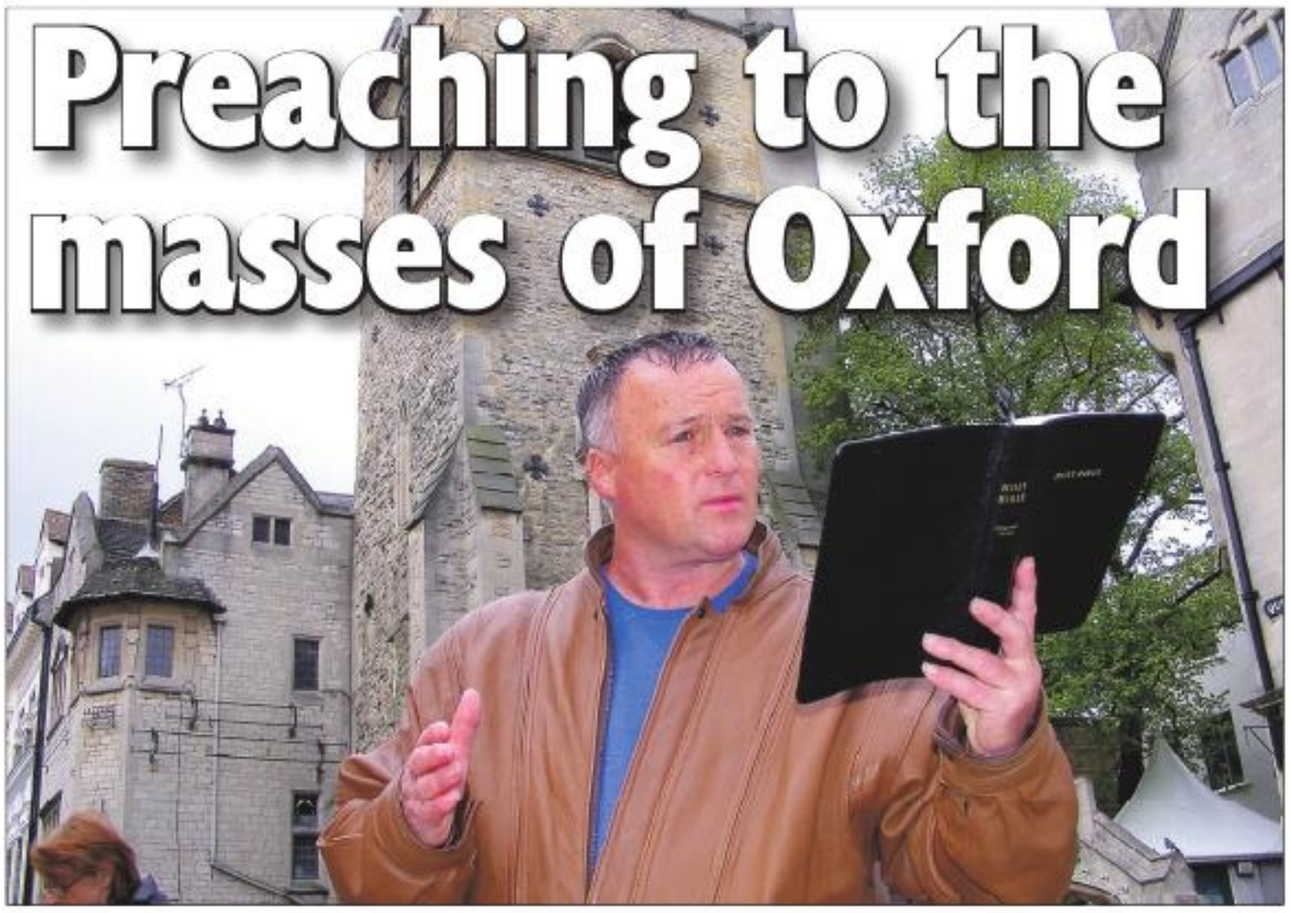

• Dougie March preaching at Carfax earlier this week (Picture by Jack Johnson)

A FORMER football hooligan who swapped prison for preaching said he was on track to kill or be killed before he turned to God.

Dougie March, 58, of Dene Road, Headington, has seen the inside of seven different prisons, serving five years.

But the Christian convert, who grew up in Byker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and moved to Oxford last month, can now be found preaching in the city centre.

Once in a gang of football hooligans called the Bigg Market Bender Squad, which followed Newcastle United, Mr March said he was also involved in nightclub and prison fights.

However, a chance encounter with two Christians in February 1986 sparked him to turn his life around after they approached him in Newcastle.

He has since travelled to 40 different countries spreading the word of God, and Mr March even claims to have brought a man back from the dead in Kampala, Uganda.

He said: "People were saying to me that I was going to end up dead or end up killing someone so I would definitely say that God saved my life.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"My life was spiralling out of control and everybody knew me as a crazy guy and always talking fighting.

"Everyone was telling me I had to change and I just said a prayer: 'God, if you're really there, I want to change, but I don't know how to change'."

The 58-year-old's life was transformed on February 18, 1986, when he heard the Gospel message and committed his life to Jesus.

Since then Mr March has preached on the streets of Newcastle to the worn-torn streets of Croatia.

He added: "I wanted to become a Christian, commit my life to Jesus.

"I wanted his power to come into my life and to change me so I can be a useful member of society and not someone who is in and out of prison and always taking drugs and fighting."

Mr March attends the Oxford Bible Church, Banbury Road, and the Rivers of Life Church, Marston Road, and preaches on the city's streets three or four times a week.

He added: "God has brought me to Headington. I really love Oxford, it's an amazing place, and it has such a good street life."

Norita Roberts, pastor at the Rivers of Life Church, added: "It is good to have hope, especially when people can change their ways."

Abandoned dog 'suffering a great deal'

A FEMALE dog which was found abandoned in Oxford with two tumours was been put to sleep following veterinary advice last week.

The corgi cross, named Lara by RSPCA staff, was found tied to railings along a footpath between Cowley Road and Cricket Road by a young girl at 5pm last Wednesday.

Lara, believed to be aged around 10 to 12-years-old, was taken to the girl's house, where two large lumps were discovered on her.

A vet found that Lara was suffering from two ruptured mammary tumours, and after being taken to an RSPCA centre for care, it was advised that she was put to sleep to end her suffering.

RSPCA inspector Andy Eddy said: "Tumours this size would have been incredibly painful for poor Lara – she must have been suffering a great deal.

"How anyone could dump an elderly dog in pain like this amazes me, especially with a medical condition which needs attention.

"If she had received treatment sooner, we may have been able to save her.

"She was a good natured little thing, and the whole story was very sad."

The RSPCA is asking for anyone with information about how Lara came to be dumped to call them on 0300 123 8018.

Mayor's fashion revolution

PUTTING on your clothes inside out is normally something you would do by accident, but that wasn't the case last Thursday.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Dee Sinclair, was one of many to take part in the first Fashion Revolution Day.

Cllr Sinclair joined members of the public in wearing an item of clothing inside out to mark a year since 1,133 people were killed when the Rana Plaza factory collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 24, 2013.

"It helps remind us to check where our clothes come from and who makes them," said Cllr Sinclair.

"The dress I wore is made of bamboo and organic cotton and the label says 'wear what the world can afford'.

"I think that is a great message."

Rachel Wilshaw, ethical trade manager at Oxfam, joined Cllr Sinclair at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates.

She added: "Fashion Revolution Day is a welcome attempt to persuade more people to take an interest in how their clothes are produced.

"We hope consumer power can help convince companies to make the well-being of workers their number one priority."

• Cllr Dee Sinclair wore her dress inside out at Oxford Town Hall last Thursday (Picture by Jonaid Jilani/ Oxfam)

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News Bites

Mensa meeting

COWLEY: Brainiacs across Oxford could join high IQ society Mensa if they make the grade in a test next month.

Mensa are holding an IQ test session for residents at St Gregory the Great Catholic School in Cricket Road on Saturday, June 21.

Everyone who scores in the top two per cent of the population will be invited to join the society.

Andrew found

HEADINGTON: A man who went missing from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford last Saturday afternoon was found safe and well the following day.

Andrew Schmid, 35, had gone to the hospital seeking treatment for a head injury, but left at around 4.50pm before receiving any help.

Thames Valley Police announced they had found Mr Schmid at 10.37pm last Sunday evening.

Bike marking

ST ALDATE'S: Cyclists in Oxford can get their bike marked at free registration events at St Aldate's police station, starting from today.

It will run from 11.30am to 1.30pm today, May 8 and May 15, where officers will be on hand to offer cycle safety information.

New £3m centre set for Blackbird Leys

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A £3MILLION technology and innovation centre is set to come to Blackbird Leys, after the Activate Learning Group was awarded a government grant to help pay for a new site.

The government has given a £1million grant to the group, formerly known as Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, in the latest round of the College Capital Investment Fund.

The project will create new buildings and refurbish existing facilities at Blackbird Leys, which have been designed to meet the skills and training needs of local employers.

It will also support training for construction trades by providing improved facilities for emerging green technologies.

Sally Dicketts, chief executive of Activate Learning, said: "This project will create a technology and innovation centre located at the heart of the local science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) economy.

• *Plans for how Activate Learning's new centre could look*

"South Oxfordshire is renowned for research, science and technology, with many of the industry-leading employers located within a 10-mile radius of Blackbird Leys.

"The region is targeted for further inward investment, around 100,000 jobs set to be created in the innovation and STEM economy.

"This new centre responds to current and future requirements, providing an essential facility to enable local people to gain the skills required for successful employment in this fast-growing sector."

It is hoped the centre will lead to the creation of 60 new apprenticeship places, and 60 new full-time programme places in engineering and new technologies.

Adrian Lockwood, chair of the Oxfordshire Skills Board, said: "We identified the need for greater investment in STEM skills and training as a regional priority.

"Activate Learning's plan to redevelop their Blackbird Leys facility reflects their willingness to actively address this issue.

"Blackbird Leys is well placed in the city of Oxford and has also been identified as a spatial priority for growth by the Economic Partnership."

Activate Learning will submit a planning application for the centre later this month, with a view to starting work in the summer. It is hoped that it will be ready to open by September 2015.

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Schemes are agreed to help those affected by flooding

OXFORD City Council has agreed to back a number of support schemes for households and businesses affected by flooding over the winter.

Last Wednesday's City Executive Board meeting saw councilors resolve to agree a financial support scheme.

Affected businesses will be offered a three-month relief in their rates, as well as covering clean-up costs.

Homeowners subjected to flooding will also be offered a council tax discount, as well as being eligible to claim for up to £5,000 in repair and renewal grants.

So far 60 letters have been sent to premises that were directly affected by flooding, while more will be sent to properties that were indirectly affected.

Around £4million has been set aside by government nationally for council tax exemptions, while £10million will be used for the business support scheme.

The government has also announced that almost £35,000 will be made available to Oxford City Council through the severe weather payment, to be used for costs such as road repair.

City council leader Bob Price told the Oxford Journal last week that "it seems entirely right" that those affected by flooding should get compensation.

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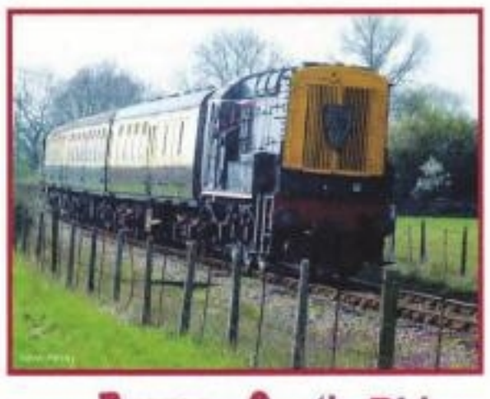

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• Ian McCulloch and Echo and the Bunnymen come to Oxford. See overleaf.

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Shaw's show

ALISTAIR McGowan leads a new production of Bernard Shaw's enduring exploration of gender and class, Pygmalion, in Oxford next week.

The show also features Jamie Foreman, Rula Lenska and Rachel Barry, and follows the story of Professor Higgins, who attempts to transform the manners of Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle.

It starts at the Oxford Playhouse, on Beaumont Street, on Tuesday.

Ian Anderson

PROG rock legend Ian Anderson performs his upcoming album 'Folk-Prog-Metal' at the New Theatre, on George Street, this Sunday.

Ian is best known for his work with Jethro Tull, and this weekend's show will see the new album receive one of its debut performances in the UK.

School theatre

THE National Theatre Connections Festival comes to the North Wall Arts Centre, on South Parade, this weekend, with a number of different shows taking place at the venue.

Eight local schools and youth theatre groups will be involved in the weekend, covering a range of different genres with their shows.

Go to thenorthwall.com for more details.

Promoting a new album that nearly didn't happen

AHEAD of their new album being released later this month, Echo and the Bunnymen perform at Oxford's O2 Academy, on Cowley Road, next weekend.

'Meteorites' is scheduled for release on May 26, written by frontman Ian McCulloch and performed alongside fellow original band member Will Sergeant.

But it almost never happened, after Ian decided to take a break last year with his relationship with Will virtually grounding to a halt.

While holed up in his Liverpool flat, Ian began writing music on a bass guitar, a process which helped him enormously.

"Straight away I felt better for it," said Ian. "I had been thinking of taking five years off on an island, but suddenly all these songs came from nowhere.

"It was really exciting and fresh, and this record is about my personal journey, my rebirth, even if it is a Bunnymen record.

"It's more edgy than anything I've ever done. I'm dealing with something on this record I didn't want to deal with for a long time."

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Will was absent for the first recording sessions of 'Meteorites', but a playback of several tracks at record producer Youth's house convinced him to contribute guitar.

Ian added: "When I heard the stuff Will did, I thought 'that's it, that's what he does'.

"It has come from his soul as well, and he's expressing himself and you can hear it. A lot of the guitar lines were mine, but you can hear Will doing his thing, and it sounds like Echo and the Bunnymen."

As well as their new material, the duo will also play a range of tracks from their extensive back catalogue, including 'The Cutter' and 'The Killing Moon'.

Doors open for the show at 6pm, and more details can be found at o2academyoxford.co.uk.

• Echo and the Bunnymen with their band will play at the O2 Academy

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Mr Sloane fun

JOE Orton's classic theatre production Entertaining Mr Sloane takes place at the Didcot Cornerstone, on Station Road, this Saturday.

Mr Sloane is a young man looking for a place to lodge, when he meets Kath and a battle for affections ensues.

It starts at 7.30pm.

Allan on wildlife

AWARD-WINNING wildlife cameraman Doug Allan, known for his work on shows such as 'Blue Planet', 'Ocean Giants' and 'Planet Earth', comes to Henley's Kenton Theatre, on New Street, on Saturday.

Doug comes highly recommended by Sir David Attenborough, and will be talking about his adventures across the world capturing nature on film. Two shows are scheduled, starting at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Double show

A THEATRE double-bill of The Islanders and On The Beach, both heralding seaside adventure and escapism, comes to the Old Fire Station, on George Street, tomorrow evening.

On The Beach discusses a trip to a British seaside town, while The Islanders is an indie musical about memories, first-loves and growing up. Doors open at 7pm.

A deserved opportunity

YORKSHIRE five-piece math rock band Marmozets bring their latest tour to Oxford on Monday, following on from the release of their newest single 'Why Do You Hate Me?'.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The group are preparing to release their debut album later this year, three years after their formation when the band had an average age of just 18.

They gained widespread recognition for their chaotic live shows, and have shared stages with Funeral for a Friend, Young Guns and Hyro Da Hero in the last few years.

Marmozets are unique in that the five members are made up of two sets of siblings, and the group are relishing the chance of another headline tour.

"We've been together for years," said vocalist Becca MacIntyre. "We've sacrificed so much and we deserve this opportunity.

"We're not taking it for granted, this is just the beginning.

"It's been months since we've all played together in the same room because everyone does their parts separately during recording.

"So now we're all back together in band practice, it feels like the best thing ever."

Becca is joined in the band by her brothers Sam on guitar and Josh on drums, alongside guitarist Jack Bottomley and his brother Will on bass.

Their last single 'Move, Shake, Hide' was critically acclaimed, receiving several plays on BBC radio stations, and the band are hoping their album is equally successful.

Sam said: "The album is all about the guitars and they sound amazing.

"But we've experimented a lot too. There's distorted organ parts on one track, for example, as well as weird reverbs and strange synths.

"I really hope that this album allows us to break to the next level."

The show takes place at the O2 Academy, on Cowley Road, with doors opening at 7pm.

• Math rock band Marmozets perform in Oxford on Monday

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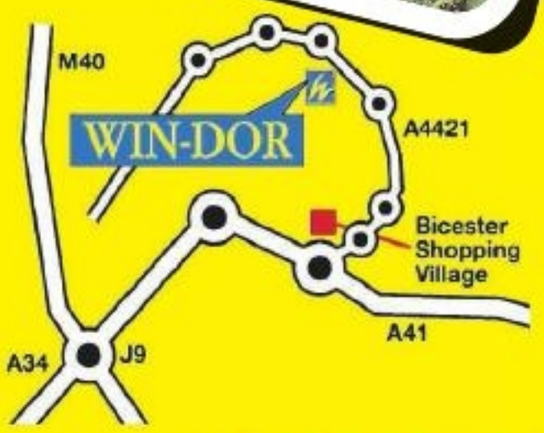

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First Class Plus	£125	£95	Oxford	07:30	22:20
Premier Dining	£199	£169	Swindon	08:20	21:30

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Take a trip down memory lane aboard **The Torbay Express,** with its heritage carriages and iconic steam locomotive. Travel along Brunel's Great Western Railway across Somerset, around the beautiful Devon coast, including the newly re-opened line at Dawlish, to seaside Paignton or on to Kingswear, where you can take the ferry to historic and picturesque Dartmouth.

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Why not make a weekend of it with a discounted Hotel break in Bristol? -see website for details

⊙ Licensed Buffet open all day ⊙ Bookings subject to terms & Conditions - available on request ⊙
⊙ Discount available for harbour cruises aboard paddle steamer 'Kingswear Castle' when booked direct with operators ⊙
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TO BOOK

Call: 01453 834477 / 835414 or visit www.torbayexpress.co.uk

Stag House, Giddynap Lane, Inchbrook, Stroud, GL5 5EZ

Oxford Property

www.oxfordpropertyweekly.co.uk

Thursday, May 1 - Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Two-bedroom ground floor apartment in Wheatley with excellent range of local facilities gives ideal access into Oxford and beyond

More details on page 2

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MASSIVE MAY SALES EVENT - EVERY SINGLE ITEM MARKED DOWN

STARTS FRIDAY 2ND MAY - DOORS OPEN 10.00AM-6.00PM

OVER £1,500,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES HAVE TO BE CLEARED TO MAKE ROOM FOR BRAND NEW SUMMER STOCK. *ACCESSORIES ALSO INCLUDED.*

SPECIAL OFFER TO ALL NEW HOME BUYERS - SEE PAGE 21

Usual opening times: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

OxfordProperty

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4A Hawksworth, Didcot,
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Wheatley apartment has excellent facilities

Superb two-bedroom ground floor apartment set in a highly sought after development in the very popular and conveniently located village of Wheatley. The apartment is ideally located for access to Oxford, London, the A40 and M40 yet Wheatley offers an excellent range of local facilities. The well proportioned accommodation comprises of entrance hall, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, allocated parking spaces, and use of the landscaped communal gardens. Call now to arrange a viewing on 01865 749645. A must see property! EPC Rating: D. For further information and to arrange a veiwing contact Connells residential lettings on 01865 749645, E-mailOxfordlet@connells.co.uk or visit connells.co.uk.

Allen & Harris helps buyers and sellers find their next home

Home sellers face a significant challenge when it comes to finding their next home in the current property market, according to leading local estate agency Allen & Harris. With demand for properties massively outweighing supply, the agent is seeing many home owners achieve very good sales on their existing property but struggling to find their next home due to a shortage of properties to buy.

In response to this issue, Allen & Harris has launched the 'Help to Find' service so that sellers are not only getting the best price for their existing property, but also support in finding the home of their dreams for their onward purchase. As part of this service, the Allen & Harris team proactively targets the types of property the vendor is interested in buying, while simultaneously holding an open house for their current property in order to get the best price possible for their home.

"The housing market has changed so much over the last year," says Branch Manager Jason Lennard. "We now have lots more buyers with better access to mortgage finance in the market, but properties are in short supply. In this context, home owners who want to take their next step up the ladder are finding it easier to sell but not to purchase their next home.

"Our Help to Find service has been designed to assist home buyers and sellers with their next purchase as well as their sale," Jason continues. "We will not only be marketing their property and putting on an open house event to gain the best price, but also marketing the sellers themselves as potential buyers to owners of the type of property they wish to move too, a 360 degree service from us. Help to Find is ultimately about anybody looking for some expertise, regardless of whether you are a first-time buyer or a seasoned home mover."

If you would like to sell your home but need help finding your next property, contact your local Allen & Harris branch for a free market appraisal of your home and to find out about its 'Help to Find' service on 01865 767414 or email: headington@sequencehome.co.uk.

OPEN HOUSE-SATURDAY 3rd May 12-2PM. CALL TO BOOK AS HIGH DEMAND EXPECTED

It is rare that such an exceptional detached family residence comes onto the market, built to a high specification and further improved by the present owners with much thought, care and attention to detail.

The property is situated in generous grounds within the highly desirable village of Horton-cum-Studley, it offers real countryside living with views over fields and has excellent travel links between Oxford and Bicester. The M40 is nearby offering further transport links further afield.

This outstanding accommodation bathed in light throughout comprises of the following; reception hall, cloakroom, home office, formal dining room, large living room and a refitted kitchen/ breakfast room with bespoke chestnut units and granite work surfaces and utility room.

On the first floor is the generous landing, an ideal space to sit and read. The main bedroom benefits from a dressing area and en-suite shower room. There are three further spacious bedrooms. The family bathroom features a roll top bath and steam and spa shower cubicle.

Set in a beautiful location, this property provides a sanctuary from our busy world.

For more details, call Allen & Harris on 01865 767414.

St Clements - Stylish student

Studios

BRAND NEW FOR SEPT

£220 per week - to include all utility costs and contents insurance

Application fee is just £50 with a deposit of only £250

A choice of stunning STUDENT STUDIOS. Alice House, St Clements offers Oxford's finest student living in a fantastic location just off the Cowley Road and within a short stroll of the city centre.

The Studios will be ready to move in to in September, are suitable for couples, and rent will be staggered to coincide with student loan payments.

The apartments are perfectly furnished with three-quarter size beds, a flatscreen TV, brilliant storage and study space equipped with super-fast 20MB broadband - which is included free. Every Studio has a stylish kitchen area with hob, fridge/freezer and combi-oven - and an en-suite bathroom - making Alice House the perfect place to study, relax and enjoy all Oxford has to offer. A hand-picked team from The Student Housing Company is on-site to cater for all needs.

Alice House is centrally located around bars, restaurants, cafes, shops and supermarkets. It is within easy reach of city-centre colleges and Oxford Brookes' Gipsy Lane campus.

To view one of the Show Studios now, contact

Martin & Co Student Homes
31 Woodin's Way, Paradise St, Oxford OX1 1HD

01865 812110 or oxford@martinco.com
www.oxford-martinco.co.uk

- Free super-fast broadband
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- Kitchen with fitted appliances
- Common Room, laundry room & bike store
- On-site maintenance and management
- Suitable for couples

MARTIN&CO
Student Homes

Headington

Connells

Aysgarth Road £400,000

A substantial detached three bedroom bungalow well positioned within the village of Yarnton. Energy Rating: D.

Old Road £450,000

Detached family home. Spacious accomadation over two levels with room to extend (subject to planning). Located within walking distance of the Nuffield Hospital. Energy rating: F.

Windmill Road £480,000

Victorian semi detached property in Central Headington, conveniently situated to local amenities, good public transport links and access to Nuffield and Churchill hospital. Energy Rating: E.

Coverley Road £300,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Currently HMO Licensed, this spacious detached property is situated on a corner plot within walking distance to London Road.

Rutten Lane £375,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow in historic village of Yarnton. Set back from the main street the property offers great access to local amenities.

Pound Field Close £225,000

Great opportunity for first time buyers. Ideal for someone looking to refurbish.

Nuffield Road £300,000

Three bedroom home with access to local amenities, offering good public transport links and conveniently situated to access The Nuffield Hospital and Churchill Hospital. Energy Rating: D.

Atkyns Road £190,000

Recently refurbished duplex apartment, offering great local amenities and a short walk to the The Nuffield & Churchill Hospital.

Atkinson Close £280,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Offering good rental potential, great links to major routes, local hospitals & the city. Energy Rating: D.

Waynefleet Road £250,000

Well presented semi detached property offering lounge, diner, kitchen, cloakroom, conservatory, three well proportioned bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, off road parking & front & rear gardens.

Aldbarton Drive £250,000

The property comprises of living space over four floors, consisting of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom & Spacious Lounge and is presented in excellent order throughout.

Cranley Road £240,000

Well presented family home, offered with no chain.

01865 763501 137a London Road Headington OX3 9HZ
headington@connells.co.uk

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Headington

Connells

East Field Close £450,000

An attractive detached property offering great access to the ring road, local hospitals & bus routes.

Barton Village Road £230,000

Well presented end of terrace home. The property offers lounge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms, off road parking for approximately three vehicles and access to rear garden.

Collinwood Road £325,000

Connells Estate Agents of Headington are pleased to present to the market this three bedroom semi-detached property in Risinghurst.

London Road £210,000

Retirement property, located on the ground floor of the popular London Court development. The site offers a 24 hour emergency careline system & house manager. Energy Rating: C.

Bayswater Farm Road £155,000

The property is well presented & offers: lounge, diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master & family bathroom. Externally the property offers surrounding gardens with decked area & parking on a drive.

Brome Place £170,000

Well presented one double bedroom flat with lounge/diner, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and hobby room. The property would be ideal as a starter home or as an investment. Energy Rating: C.

Ilsley Road £225,000

The house consists of: three bedrooms & family bathroom on the first floor, kitchen, dining room, lounge & cloakroom on the ground floor. The property is located within walking distance of local shops.

Hengrove Close £230,000

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this property is a great family home, offering: lounge, kitchen/diner, three well proportioned bedrooms, bathroom, parking & front & rear gardens.

Holloway £275,000

Semi detached property in need of refurbishment, offered with no onward chain, parking and gardens. The accommodation consists of three bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, diner, cloakroom and kitchen.

Cranley Road £90,000

DEVELOPMENT PLOT Planning approved for a one bedroom house to be developed to the side of a three bedroom semi detached property. Viewing advised and further plans available in branch.

Boad Oak £275,000

Well presented family home located in a quiet cul-de-sac next to Magdalen Wood. Ideal for first time buyers and people looking for a property to move into with no renovation. Energy Rating: D.

Bulan Road £320,000

Investment Opportunity. Offered with tenants in situ until July. The property has an HMO for 4 people, is located in a prime location for lettings, close to the Headington hospitals & Brookes University.

01865 763501 137a London Road Headington OX3 9HZ
headington@connells.co.uk

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connells.co.uk

Oxford

Connells

Littlemore £250,000

This TWO BEDROOM BUNGALOW is presented to a good standard throughout having been UPDATED and REFURBISHED by the current owner. SPACIOUS lounge/dining room plus CONSERVATORY. EPC Rating: E

Cowley £330,000

Built in1903 this property brims with CHARACTER. Located just off the popular Cowley Road. An IDEAL investment purchase or family home. Recently installed Fitted Kitchen. EPC Rating: D

Florence Park £265,000

Connells are pleased to market this TWO bedroom DETACHED bungalow located in the sought after area of Florence Park and is being sold with NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating: Awaited

Littlemore £220,000

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY 3rd MAY. A superbly presented, two double bedroom home that has undergone significant improvement by the current owners. CALL US NOW TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT. EPC Rating: C

Iffley Road £630,000

A substantial three storey terraced property located on Iffley Rd offers superb potential for those looking for a central rental property. EPC Rating: E

Littlemore £275,000

UPDATED end of terraced property, FITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM plus a SPACIOUS LOUNGE/ DINING ROOM on the ground floor, upstairs has THREE BEDROOMS and a fitted WHITE BATHROOM SUITE. EPC Rating: D

Oxford £324,950

This three bedroom property is located on Magdalen Road with the large advantage of having OFF STREET PARKING and a GARAGE to the rear. In need of modernisation. EPC Rating: F

Cowley £275,000

This HMO LICENCED FOUR bedroom property is offered to the market with tenants in situ. Currently achieving a rental income of £2400 PCM representing a gross yield of 10.4% IDEAL FOR BMW WORKERS. EPC Rating: C

Cowley/ Headington £259,995

MULTIPLE OFFERS RECEIVED AFTER OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL. Offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN is this superb 2 bedroom semi detached home, offering potential to extend (STP). EPC Rating: D

Oxford £680,000

A FANTASTIC investment opportunity waiting to be snapped up, situated in a central East Oxford location is SEMI DETACHED property extended and renovated. Comprising of 3 X one bed apartments and 1 X two bed apartments each self contained. EPC Rating: C

Kennington £425,000

This well presented extended property is situated on a sizable corner plot offering spacious family living with the advantage of ample off street parking for several vehicles. EPC Rating: D

Florence Park £300,000

Located in FLORENCE PARK this end of terraced property is situated on a larger than average plot. Entrance, LOUNGE, kitchen/breakfast room, second reception room, landing, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom plus loft room. EPC Rating: F

01865 748 448 60 Between Towns Road Oxford OX4 3LR
cowley@connells.co.uk

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Oxford Lettings

Connells

Oxford Road £875

WELL LOCATED- two bedroom ground floor apartment,which offers very easy access to Oxford City Centre,Cowley Centre and business parks.Allocated parking,Available end of May. EPC Rating:E

Barton £950

VERY WELL PRESENTED- ground floor apartment with 2 double bedrooms. Tastefully decorated throughout.Available late June early July, view now to avoid missing out.EPC Rating:C

Wheatley £950

TWO BEDROOM ground floor apartment set in a highly sought after development in the popular and conveniently located village of Wheatley. Veiwing is a must, EPC Rating:D

Brill £1,250

THREE BEDROOM-end of terrace house is situated in a quiet rural location with beautiful surroundings in a sought after and historic village of Brill.The property has many interesting and attractive features, with good accommodation of, Entrance hall, Large spacious lounge with feature log burning stove, Country style kitchen, dining room Conservatory, Three double bedrooms, bathroom and a cloakroom. Allocated parking, front and rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. EPC Rating:D

Blackbird Leys £1,200

SUPERBLY LOCATED three bedroom home,close to parks,schools leisure facilities,and shops.There is also very easy access to Oxford City Centre,business parks and eastern by pass. EPC Rating:C

Cowley £1,250

Currently undergoing a full refurbishment this conveniently located house.Accommodation of,entrance hall, lounge/diner,kitchen,3 bedrooms,bathroom front and rear gardens.Available end of May.EPC Rating:E

Cowley £1,300

SPACIOUS GROUND FLOOR apartment.Available furnished at the end of July, viewing is high recommended. EPC Rating:B

Littlemore £1,300

SHORT TERM LET-This excellent house is available at the start of May.Accommodation of entrance hall, living room,light airy and spacious fully fitted kitchen diner,two double bedrooms,bathroom.EPC Rating:D

Horspath £2,100

FANTASTIC DETACHED VILLAGE HOME- situated in the heart of Horspath yet with very easy access to Oxford and the M40. A must see property, EPC Rating:C

01865 749 645 60 Between Towns Road Oxford OX4 3LR
oxfordlet@connells.co.uk

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | LISTINGS

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SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL
Cornerstone, Didcot
Sunday, May 4

1 May, 7am - 7pm
Broad Street, Oxford
SOAPBOX CITY
A brand-new free event - a unique opportunity to experience 12 hours of non-stop public address Expect to be moved, thrilled and surprised by a host of famous faces, extraordinary storytellers and even friends, family and neighbours. Anyone wanting to take part should email soapboxcity@oxfordplayhouse.com with their name and what they'd like to talk about.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

2 May, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
CHARLIE HIGSON
Author, screenwriter and comedian Charlie Higson is joined in conversation with celebrated photographer, Cambridge Jones.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

2 May
02 Academy Oxford
BOOT LED ZEPPELIN
Boot-Led-Zeppelin capture the magic and excitement of Led Zeppelin's legendary concerts. Their close attention to detail, and sheer presence and energy on stage, ensure to take their audience on a journey back in time, delivering the ultimate Led Zeppelin experience!

4 May
New Theatre
LEGENDARY PROG ROCK ICON IAN ANDERSON
A selection from his new-release concept album - which he defines as 'Folk-Prog-Metal' - in its more theatrical setting, together with a selection of Jethro Tull highlights.

£28 + £32
0844 871 3020

4 May
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL

5 May
The Art Bar, Oxford
RAE MORRIS

6 May - 10 May, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
INCOGNITO
Three stories explore the nature of identity and how we are defined by what we remember. Written by Nick Payne, Evening Standard Award for Best Play Constellations. Previous works include: The Same Deep Water As Me (Donmar) and If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet (The Bush).
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

6 May - 10 May
Oxford Playhouse
PYGMALION
Pygmalion is one of theatre's most entertaining and beguiling plays, and provided the inspiration for the musical My Fair Lady.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

6 May, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - ADDERS - NEIL CLENNELL
The Warburg Reserve, has the last population of Adders in Oxfordshire, and even there they are now on the brink of extinction, mirroring the national trends. There are theories that genetic heterozygosity and critical adult population size combine with fragmentation effects to extirpate historically healthy populations. As a reaction to the Warburg situation, BBOWT have been working with Natural England and ZSL to collect and analyse DNA from the region's remaining snakes and create a genetic map of those extant populations. The project is on-going, but some interesting results have been obtained, and the intention is to feed into a recovery plan for the species.
Neil Clennell is Head of Conservation & Education (Oxfordshire) at BBOWT and is by background, a herpetologist.
http://www.anhso.org.uk

9 May, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
A POTTED HISTORY OF GARDENING
This entertaining talk will look at how British gardening has evolved from its immediate post-glacial roots in the near east, under the influences of climate change and growing communication, and the roles gardens played for the wealthy and ordinary people. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

10 May - 31 May, 10am - 5:30pm
Sarah Wiseman Gallery
ARTWEEKS: 3 OXFORDSHIRE ARTISTS
Painting, printmaking & sculpture from Bee Bartlett, Rachel Dossor and Richard Fox as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks Festival
01865 515 123

14 May - 15 Jun, 4am - 7am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
City of Oxford College open day For more deatils contact - 01865 550550
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

14 May - 14 May, 4am - 7am
Blackbird leyes Campus
OPEN EVENT

15 May, 9pm - 11pm
The Jericho
URBAN FOLK QUARTET
Joe Broughton, Paloma Trigás, Tom Chapman and Dan Walsh are The Urban Folk Quartet; Four highly accomplished musicians, a dozen instruments and four voices coming together to craft a knockout show of globally–influenced, electrifying acoustic music that has been taking the international folk scene by storm. Hitting the ground running in 2009, The UFQ's trail has blazed across ten countries, igniting audiences worldwide with their high octane, genre-bending take on folk. brings further new direction as founding member Frank Moon steps out of touring life, passing the torch to banjo virtuoso, singer and guitarist Dan Walsh for what is set to be the band's most adventurous year so far.
www.theufq.com
7813346250

16 May
Cornerstone, Didcot
MARK GRIST, ROGUE TEACHER
Internet sensation, Poet laureate of Peterborough, former English teacher and modern day bard.
01235 515 144

16 May, 8pm
Fat Lil's, Witney
FOLK MUSICIAN LISA KNAPP
With support from The August List and Wes Finch. Tickets £8 available from Rapture in Witney / Truck Store Oxford and online www.tunatheday.com

16 May, 7:30pm
Fat Lil's, Witney
LISA KNAPP
Award-winning folk musician, with support from The August List and Wes Finch.
Tickets £8 available from Rapture in Witney / Truck Store Oxford and online www.tunatheday.com

16 May, 6pm - 9pm
Wallingford Museum
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Experience what it was like in wartime Britain. Bring a torch to this event , which will appeal to adults and children alike.

17 May - 18 May, 10am - 5pm
The Yoga Room, Witney OX28 1HY
2 DAY TAROT WORKSHOP
With Andy Ford Psychic Medium, Tutor, Tarot Reader and Palmist. £45 for each day.
Learn how to read and interpretthe ancient art of the tarot cards. Guidance and meanings are provided for each card, enabling you to build towards performing a full reading. The workshop will be a fun experience revealing the power of this tool for providing positive guidance.
www.thirdeyeworkshops.com

18 May
Cornerstone, Didcot
THE RUTLES

www.cornerstone-arts.org

18 May, 10am - 3pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
CANCER RESEARCH WALK
Make the most of a spring day out and raise money for Cancer Research UK at the same time with our sponsored walk. You can take as long – or as short a time as you want covering the route around the Waterperry estate and gardens.
Jenny Braithwaite 01844 208073.

27 May - 27 May, 11am - 3pm
The North Wall Arts Centre
1001 NIGHTS - TRANSPORT THEATRE & UNICORN ON TOUR
Shahrazad - a lively young girl torn between her old home in the East and her new life in England, re-tells the stories of her childhood to her new-found friend, who understands not a word she says. Nominated for an Off West End Award - Best Production for Young People.
Tuesday 27th May, 11am + 2pm, £7, 6+
01865 319450

27 May, 11am - 12am
The North Wall, Oxford
1001 NIGHTS
Using the things she finds around her, Shahrazad fashions saucepans into crowns, old pipes into enchanted telescopes and a mop into a magic carpet to transport us to a fantastical and imagined world of kings, viziers, and jinns.
This compelling, funny and absorbing play was nominated for an Off West End Award - Best Production for Young People.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

28 May
Cornerstone, Didcot
DIDCOT FILM CLUB: GIGI

01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

30 May, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf and Country Club, A420, Faringdon
LIVE JAZZ: JULIE EDWARDS & KEVIN DEARDEN
Standard Miles presents a British jazz super-group revisiting the music played by the legendary Miles Davis.
Simon Spillett (tenor sax), Henry Lowther (trumpet, flugel-horn), John Critchinson (piano), Dave Green (bass), Trevor Tomkins (drums).
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903

31 May, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Who Put Bella In The Witch Elm?
21.30 The Scribers
22.15 Back Pocket Prophet
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/266379
www.gappytooth.com

1 Jun
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: NATIONAL BBQ WEEK

3 Jun, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - THE RISE AND FALL OF OUR WOOD CULTURE - DR GABRIEL HEMERY
Over the last 350 years the nature and health of our woodlands and treescapes have changed in step with their utility. Today, perhaps more so than in the last one hundred years, great sylvan opportunities lie ahead, and some significant challenges. Dr Hemery celebrates the legacy of Evelyn's 1664 Sylva, and looks to the future.
As a practising silvologist (forest scientist) Dr Gabriel Hemery has undertaken research in subjects ranging from the walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan, to rearing chickens in farm woodlands; authoring more than 70 scientific articles. He created a new research woodland in Oxfordshire, Paradise Wood, and has planted tens of thousands of trees in field trials across Britain. His first book, The New Sylva, was published by Bloombsury in April.
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

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TOY AND TRAIN FAIR
SATURDAY 3RD MAY 11AM-4PM
EXETER HALL, OXFORD ROAD, KIDLINGTON
HORNBY, BASSETT-LOWKE, '00' TRAINS, DINKY TOYS, CORGI, TINPLATE, SOLDIERS, MECCANO AND A VINTAGE HORNBY '0' GAUGE RUNNING TRAIN LAYOUT
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Have you or a family member ever served in the forces?

Do you know that your father, your husband, your mother, your sister, your grandfather, your girlfriend, your neighbour, your friend, your aunt, your uncle, your colleague, or your client could be entitled to help from SSAFA?

Just one day of service entitles that person to SSAFA support. Whether it is a welfare or general advice, social, domestic or professional – SSAFA may be able to help.

As the oldest service charity SSAFA have supported lot's of the ex-forces service community and their families.

We have seen many things and supported people through many issues so whether you are young or not so young if you need us we will try and help.

Call 01235 548039 for more information and in complete confidence

Ssafa.org.uk/commitment

ssafa Lifelong support for our Forces and their families

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Oxfordshire Inn
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£7.95 one course
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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

4					8	2		5
	3		2	1		4		
	7	6	3					9
				9	6	1	5	4
		8				7		
9	1	4	5	3				
3					5	9	6	
		7		6	2		8	
1		9	7					2

6	4							7
				6	5		8	
9	1				7			3
	2				4			
	9	7				2	1	
			7				3	
2			4				6	1
	5		6	7				
7							5	2

			2		8			1
4		5				7		
	1	3						
	6			9				
7			3		1			8
				6			9	
						5	6	
		8				3		4
1			9		5			

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Allow (6)
8 Transporter (7)
9 List of things to be done (6)
10 Afflict (9)
11 Halt (4)
13 Spirited horse (5)
14 Long loose overcoats (7)
16 Discourse (7)
18 Live piece of coal (5)
19 Crude metals (4)
21 Office of foreign power (9)
22 Crown (6)
23 Brown coal (7)
24 Settle comfortably (6)

Quick Clues Down

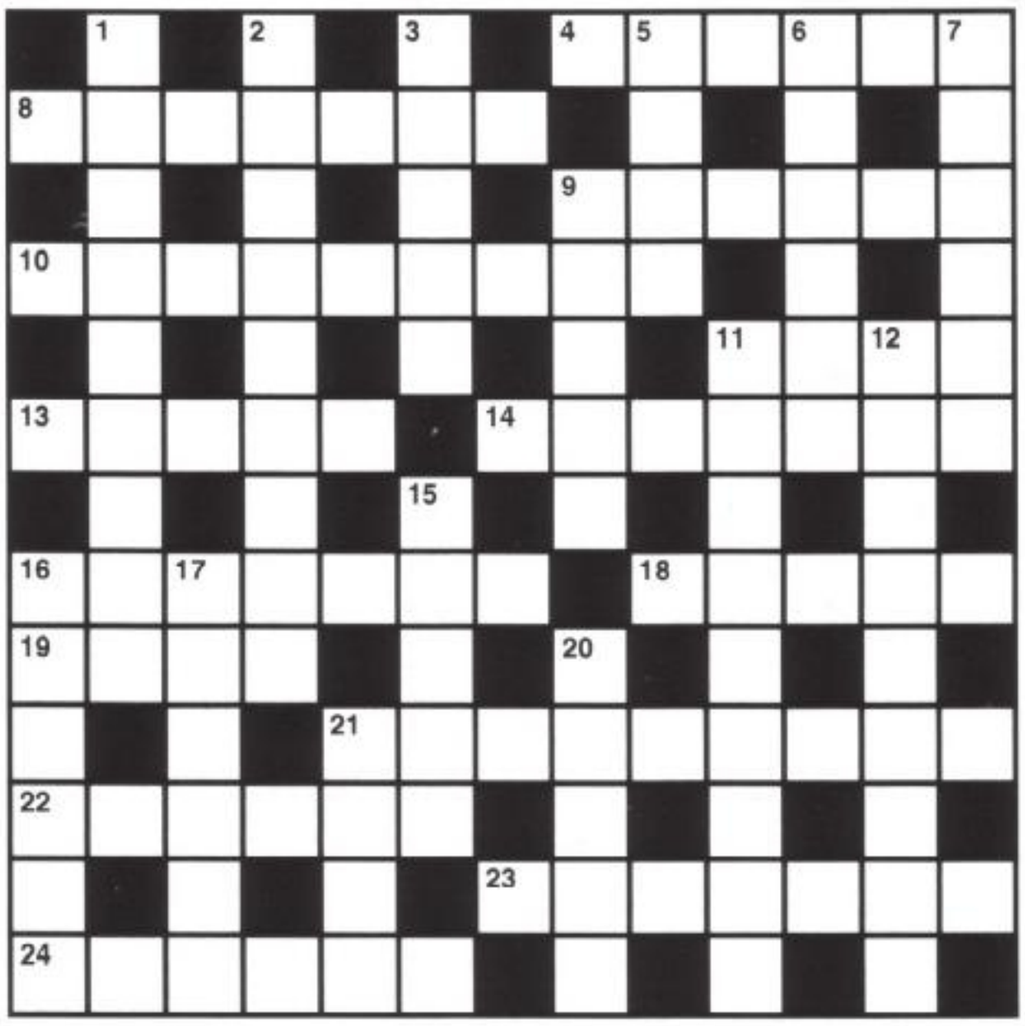
1 Geographical dictionary (9)
2 Expectations (9)
3 Blood-sucker (5)
5 Brink (4)
6 Small space of time (6)
7 Vagrants (6)
9 Coral island (5)
11 Pep pill (9)
12 Determine one's position (9)
15 Besom (5)
16 Capital city (6)
17 Conifers (6)
20 On the move (5)
21 Monk's room (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Separate after the beginning of French leave? (6)
8 Ostentatious to mop up spilt soup (7)
9 Let man change in the mind (6)
10 Dramatic desire for city transport (6-3)
11 Was once a vegetable, it's said (4)
13 The old Englishman could be right (5)
14 Their work is certainly a grind (7)
16 Eaten up as ten different titbits (7)
18 A Spanish hero's likely to be sharp (5)
19 Produce a change of diet (4)
21 She'll put her money on an old sailor (9)
22 To be fastidious, put out the tin during the day (6)
23 Do they haunt the bar? (6)
24 Encouraging lays? (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Foreshadowed an empty decanter? (9)
2 Pale plant has appeal (9)
3 Appropriate wear at the card table (5)
5 First lady has the right - always (4)
6 Former Prime Minister emerged from the battle, entirely unruffled (6)
7 Gnarled fingers lock among the shades (6)
9 Crazy to put the chap in charge (5)
11 The songster has the right to put in a dirty bid (9)
12 CID are up at the end to wipe out (9)
15 Likely to scratch? (5)
16 Tout one's wares - on foot? (6)
17 First class fish not in prime condition (6)
20 Overflow the eastern incline (5)
21 Shock could be the finish of 16 across (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

7	2	8	6	3	4	1	9	5
9	3	1	8	5	2	7	6	4
6	5	4	7	9	1	3	2	8
2	7	6	3	8	5	9	4	1
8	4	9	1	2	6	5	3	7
5	1	3	9	4	7	6	8	2
3	6	7	2	1	8	4	5	9
4	9	2	5	7	3	8	1	6
1	8	5	4	6	9	2	7	3

5	4	2	1	9	6	3	7	8
6	3	7	5	8	4	1	2	9
8	9	1	2	3	7	6	4	5
9	8	4	7	5	3	2	1	6
1	6	3	9	4	2	8	5	7
2	7	5	8	6	1	9	3	4
7	1	8	4	2	9	5	6	3
3	2	9	6	7	5	4	8	1
4	5	6	3	1	8	7	9	2

2	1	7	6	4	9	5	3	8
5	4	6	3	1	8	7	2	9
8	9	3	2	5	7	1	6	4
7	3	8	1	6	4	2	9	5
4	2	9	7	8	5	3	1	6
1	6	5	9	3	2	4	8	7
6	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	2
9	5	4	8	2	1	6	7	3
3	8	2	4	7	6	9	5	1

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Garden 7 Compere 8 Apparel 9 Looms 10 Sessional 12 Ton 13 Upon 15 Igneous 17 Earl 19 Net 21 Attenders 22 Posed 23 Narrate 24 Compete 25 Lentil

Down: 1 Gladsome 2 Repast 3 Earring 4 Smell 5 Recoup 6 Hers 7 Clandestine 11 Soil 13 Used 14 Newsreel 16 Unnerve 18 Resume 20 Tenant 21 Added 22 Pick

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Lyrics 7 Marsala 8 Deviate 9 Nylon 10 Barefaced 12 Ere 13 Bred 15 Advance 17 Dies 19 Ate 21 Moderates 22 Tutti 23 Slither 24 Console 25 Census

Down: 1 Ladybird 2 Revere 3 Chaffed 4 Trend 5 Tailor 6 Lawn 7 Merchandise 11 Eras 13 Beta 14 Desserts 16 Carbine 18 Eating 20 Etches 21 Minor 22 Tack

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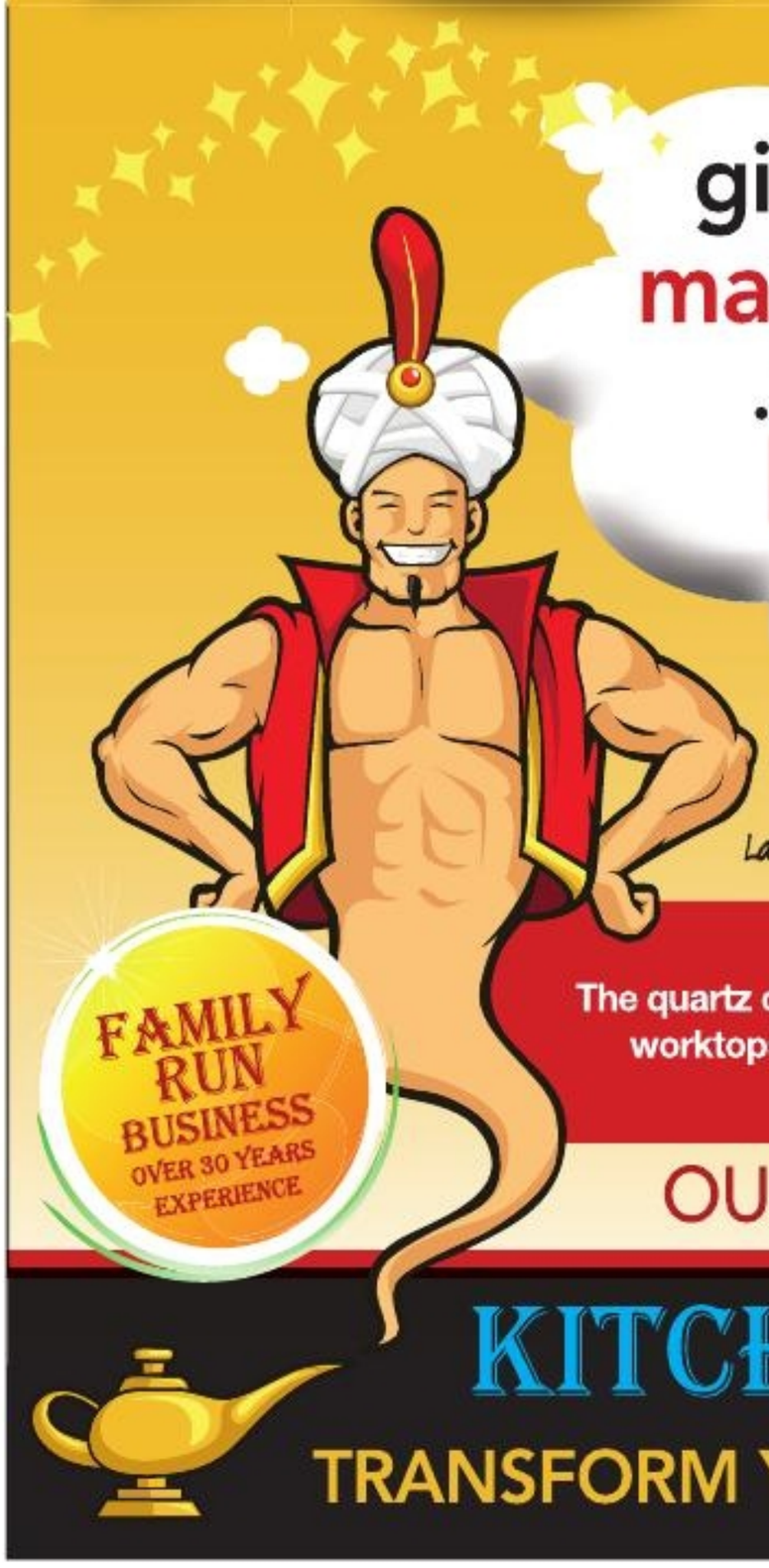

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WIN tickets Beaulieu Spring Autojumble!

Beaulieu events
Spring Autojumble

BACK for its 21st year, Beaulieu's popular Spring Autojumble will be taking place on the 17th and 18th May in the grounds of the world-famous National Motor Museum.

The 1,000 Autojumble spaces will be selling everything motor-related, including parts, automobilia, literature and accessories, while the Motormart on the Beaulieu Arena will have up to 200 vehicles for sale, ranging from concours classics to restorable relics. In the Dealermart there will be a selection of quality classic cars for sale.

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the prestigious European Car of the Year title, and in celebration of this, a selection of some of the winning vehicles over the years will be forming a display in the event fields.

Show sponsors, Practical Classics, will be present at the event with a one-off practical demonstration – the restoration in one weekend of the world's first production Hillman Imp – along with a collection of magazine cars and previous restorations.

Sunday highlights include Old Sodbury's Land Rover Sortout, selling Land Rover and 4x4 parts and accessories, and Trunk Traders, with amateur autojumblers selling their surplus car bits from the back of their vehicles.

Closing date:
Monday, May 12, 2014

The popular Walkabout Auction will be taking place on Sunday afternoon with Practical Classics Editor, Danny Hopkins, as guest auctioneer. It offers an 'end of show' chance to buy and sell, giving exhibitors an opportunity to sell off surplus items of stock they don't want to take home with them. It's a simple and easy way of buying or selling those last bits from the show and there are no auction fees to pay.

Visitors to the event can also enjoy all the Beaulieu attractions, including the National Motor Museum, World of Top Gear, Palace House and Beaulieu Abbey.

Entry to the National Motor Museum is from 9am, with the event opening to visitors 10am – 5pm on Saturday and 10am – 4.30pm on Sunday.

For more information, visit www.beaulieuevents.co.uk

We have three pairs of tickets to give away to the Autojumble that include entry to the main Beaulieu attraction and to be in with a chance of winning a pair all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: Who is the editor of Practical Classics magazine?

To enter more competitions like this, go online to www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

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Option Two

25 September - 5 October 2014 and 9 -19 October 2014

Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston††
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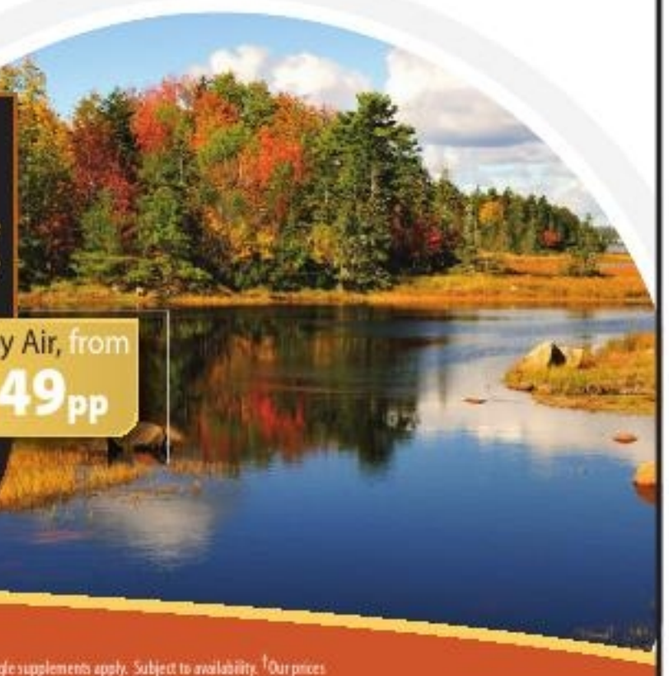

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One fifth of those polled in South East think condition of roads is 'dangerous'

Roads classed as being 'poor'

POTHOLES have been top of the agenda following the Government announcement last week that councils could bid for £168million to repair roads.

And a new survey showed drivers needing to repair their vehicles because of pothole damage face an average bill of £165.

The study, by research firm Viewsbank, found 51 per cent of drivers class their local roads as being in a poor condition.

Of those, 14 per cent counted the road conditions as dangerous.

The poll of 2,004 drivers was carried out in February – one month before Chancellor George Osborne announced £200m of the Government's budget would go towards filling in the country's potholes.

David Black, from Viewsbank, said: "It is shocking that nearly two out of three motorists are unhappy about the state of local roads and even more worrying that six per cent of people have had an accident because of potholes.

"The Chancellor has recognised the need to spend on road repairs and has committed to increase spending but potholes are clearly still a major issue and motorists believe little is being done to solve the problem."

By **Katriona Ormiston**
katriona@taylornewspapers.co.uk

On average, drivers in south east England classed their local roads as being in the worst condition - 51 per cent rating them poor and 20 per cent considering them dangerous.

Londoners seemed happiest with their local roads, with only 37 per cent counting them as poor.

The area where drivers considered the roads were the safest was north west England with only eight per cent deeming them dangerous.

Last week David Cameron announced that from that £200m allocated in the Budget, local authorities can now apply for a share £168m until May 22.

Viewsbank is owned and operated by Consumer Intelligence – an independent research company running since 2003.

• *Drivers in the South East classed their roads as the worst in the country*

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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Quote taken from Kia customer reviews. Directly comparable quotes occur across the Kia range. ^Models shown: Picanto 3-dr 'VR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £8,795 including customer saving of £750 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; Rio 5-dr 'VR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £11,095 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; cee'd 5-dr 'VR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £13,995 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/care3 for full details. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 30th June 2014. Participating dealers only. *4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditional Sale on Picanto, Rio and cee'd models. 10% minimum deposit required on cee'd models. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / Indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. All based on 0,000 Miles Per Annum.

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The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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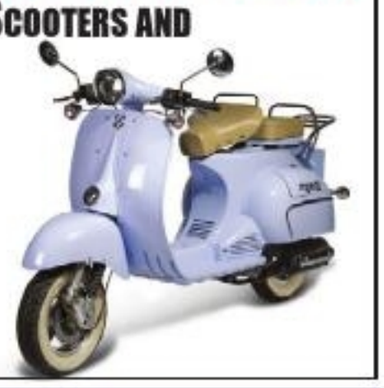

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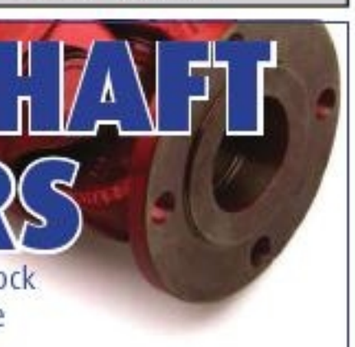

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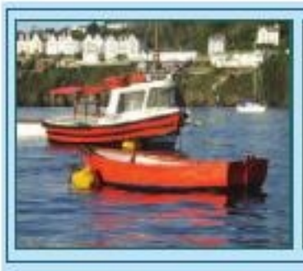

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woman seeking

DONNA 39 blond green eyes petite looking for a fun loving 6ft guy. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4349289**

DEBBIE very petite 28yr old attractive blonde trainee nurse, active, fit, outgoing, seeking caring, sensitive man with GSOH. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411699**

SONYA tall leggy vibrant very attractive black lady who loves gym, music, dining out, seeks mature responsible, respectable professional to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411697**

SILVI divorced attractive average built female who loves to laugh and has an extremely infectious personality, looking to find love with genuine man. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411527**

CARRIE 29yr old fun loving attractive single mum with OHAC, likes nights in or out, music, WLTM similar fun romantic handsome man for friendship possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411215**

ABI creative free spirited lady, enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409723**

DEBS very hurt but healing female only looking for honest, caring genuine guy who will love me for me. I have varied interests and love music and Lanzarote. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409275**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1955 Box 410127**

DEBS 40 normal passionate romantic with my own home and cat, loves wine, champers, seeks honest sincere likeminded male who thinks I'm worth getting to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411221**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408291**

JANE slim attractive fun loving artistic, loves life and good company, WLTM slim built male with GSOH for shared interests maybe even a love connection. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411213**

SUE 38 enjoys cinema, clubs, meals in/out, very broadminded, attentive, tactile, passionate, looking for lots of fun with Mr Wrong! discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411205**

SARA 6ft slim leggy blonde, loves dancing, keeping fit, motorbikes, children, animals etc, seeking honest, outdoorsy guy/dad to live life to the full with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411035**

JOANNE 36yr old single self-conscious mum, likes pubs, clubs, nights in/out, coast, seeks faithful kind guy 30-45 to share the rest of my life with so no time wasters pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410569**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA **Tel No: 0905 002 1948 Box 408297**

LEANNE young curvy single female looking for smoking hot single guy to enjoy nights in/out full of laughs and good times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410563**

LOU 57, cuddly, 5ft 11ins, seeking kind, caring, honest gent for friendship and memorable times together. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411471**

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTM fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411037**

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410717**

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410709**

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410305**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location **Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box 366019**

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 410137**

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 409413**

SINCERE female, seeking tall male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 407963**

man seeking

NICK 39 years old from Horsham, seeking female in Horsham, gsoh, for company, and days out. Likes cinema, ice skating, seafront walks, theatre, ten pin bowling, etc, **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4368958**

MARTIN 65 slim ,likes meals out quite drinks out. Seeking female age 40 -70 size 18 plus for mutual fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4370067**

FRIENDLY old man, less than 60, seeks friendly female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411733**

NICK 39, 6ft, blue eyes, GSOH, likes Formula 1, cinema, ice skating, nights out, walks, seeks female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411623**

KEN 67, slim, N/S, Harley/chopper rider, seeks petite, slim, long haired, quiet spoken, N/S woman for pillion and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411609**

ROBERT blue eyes, 5ft 9ins, slim, loving, caring, easy going, likes swimming, walks, cinema, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411487**

TALL pleasant looking retired Manager, 70's, tactile, likes good food, full bodied wine and full bodied cuddlesome woman. **0906 500 3686 Box No: 411409**

HANDSOME male, 5ft 10ins, fun, intelligent, strong, slim, seeks Surrey/Sussex/Kent female, younger or mature in years for discreet fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411191**

RETIRED 69yr old male, likes travel, meals out, yoga, OFAC, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411121**

SIMON 32, seeking mature couple for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3686 Box No: 411107**

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Burnell admits discipline is a concern for Dragons

JUSTIN Burnell is urging his London Welsh side to improve their discipline ahead of the Greene King IPA Championship semi-finals.

The Exiles incurred a second consecutive red card in their 64-12 win over Nottingham at Old Deer Park last Saturday.

Alec Hepburn was dismissed for a tip-tackle on Dan Montagu, just a week after Richard Thorpe was sent off against Bristol Rugby.

The situation was worse against Nottingham as Hudson Tonga'uiha was forced off with the Exiles having already used their full complement of replacements, leaving Welsh with just 13 men.

Nick Scott (3), Seb Stegmann (2), James Tincknell, Nathan Vella, Carl Kirwan and Nathan Trevett all went over for the Exiles in the 10-try victory.

However, head coach Burnell is aware that the Exiles can ill-afford to be down to 14-men when they line-up against Leeds Carnegie in the semi-finals.

"It was a nice way to finish, especially at Old Deer Park," said Burnell.

"Ten tries and a good performance, but discipline once again let us down.

"That's a major concern for me, but that's life, and you've got to get on with it.

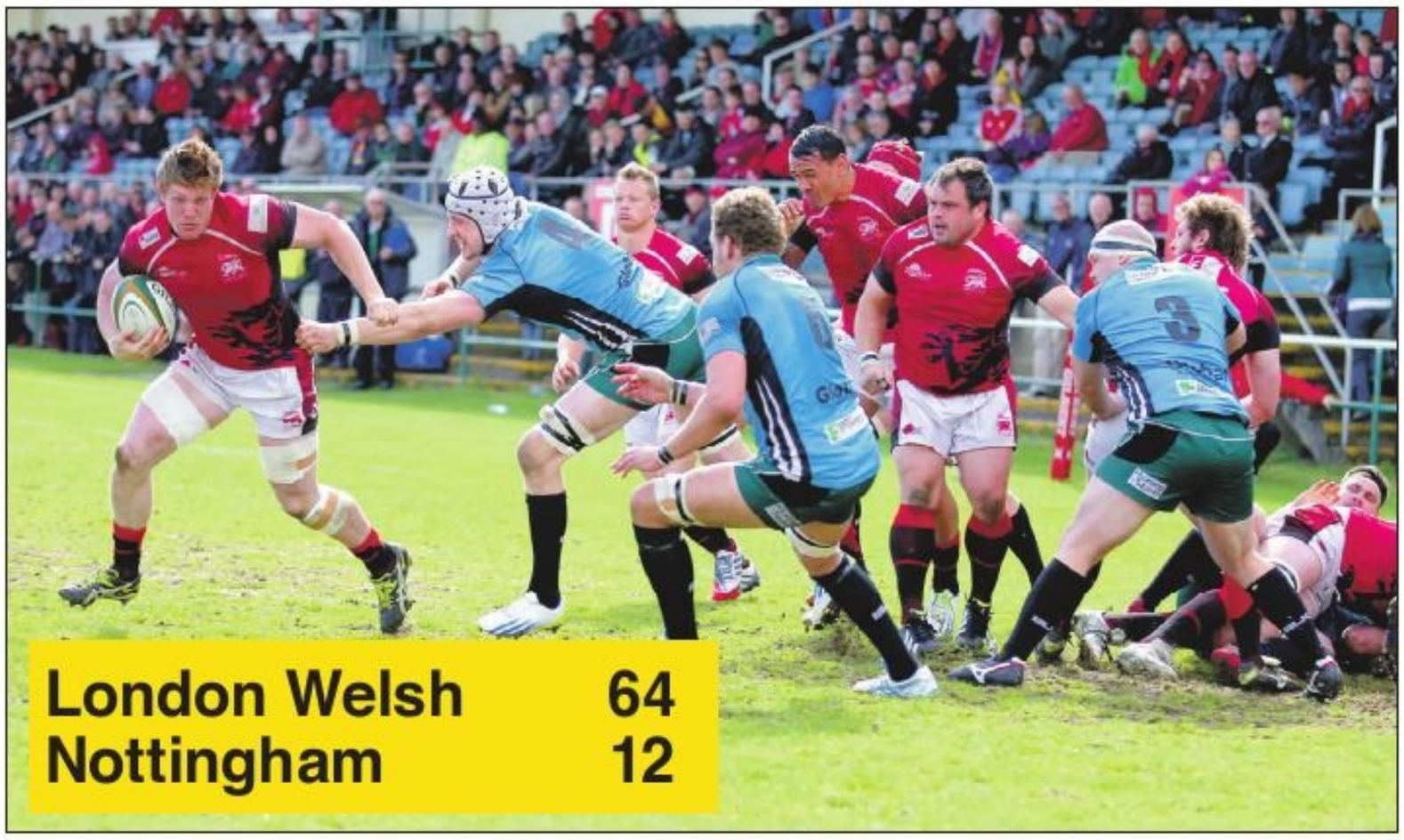
"We've got to learn from that, we've got to keep our 15 players on the field.

"When we've got 15 players on the field there is no room for anybody to break us.

"That was the disappointing aspect for us and that's our own fault."

Victory over Nottingham ensured Welsh second spot in the table and sets a two-legged semi-final showdown with third-placed Leeds.

The first semi-final will be played at Headingly Carnegie on May 11 before the Exiles welcome Leeds to the Kassam Stadium on May 18.



• *John Quill breaks for the tryline during London Welsh's 64-12 win over Nottingham last Saturday (Picture by Martin John)*

City held to home draw in season finale

OXFORD City ended a difficult Skrill North campaign with a 1-1 draw at home to Bradford Park Avenue at Marsh Lane last Saturday.

Zach McEachran opened the scoring for City on 18 minutes, but Richard Marshall's penalty with 10 minutes remaining denied Mike Ford's side the win.

The draw saw City finish third from bottom in the league table, avoiding the drop due to Vauxhall Motors' voluntary relegation.

Last Saturday's match will be most remembered as Steve Basham and Chris Willmott's swansong.

The former Oxford United pair, both aged 36, have announced their retirement and were a part of City's promotion-winning side of 2012.

However, Basham (below) was unable to add to his 31 goals in 66 appearances last Saturday as he missed a penalty during the 1-1 draw.

Veteran Ross returns to inspire Exiles to victory

WITH London Welsh's first Greene King IPA Championship semi-final just over a week away, Gordon Ross made a timely return to action to inspire the Exiles to a 64-12 win over Nottingham last Saturday.

The veteran fly-half and assistant coach made his first appearance since February 1, and rolled back the years as the Exiles stormed to a 10-try victory.

A delightful line break from Ross set up James Tincknell for the Exiles' second try, while the 36-year-old also kicked 12 points.

Ross said: "I've had a few a months off so I'm pretty fresh.

"It was good, but you've got to credit the team and I'm thankful to Justin (Burnell) and Ollie (Smith) for picking me for once.

"I've picked myself for the last 12 weeks, but they've not picked me once."

For Ross, it was an important win after the Exiles' narrow defeat to Bristol Rugby at the Memorial Stadium the previous weekend.

"We played some good rugby at times," he added.

"We maybe forced the odd offload which gave Nottingham the chance to recover, but it was important to get the win and that should hopefully give us the confidence to go and play with the ball in hand."

• *Gordon Ross (Picture by Martin John)*

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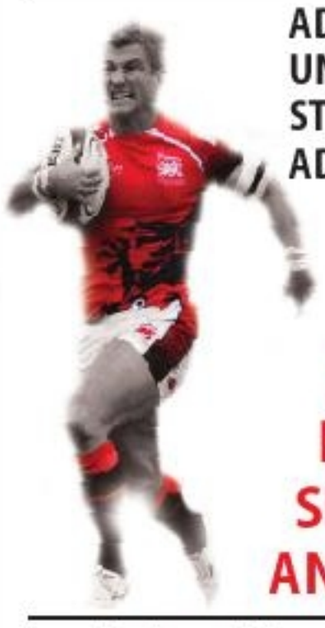

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U'S BOSS FUMES AT ACCRINGTON LOSS

Play-off hopes are over after defeat

HEAD coach Gary Waddock branded Oxford United's 2-1 defeat at home to Accrington Stanley as "unacceptable" as the U's missed out on a place in Sky Bet League Two's play-offs.

United are now seven points behind Southend United, who occupy the last spot, with one game remaining.

Despite Ryan Williams' second half goal, Kayode Odejayi and James Gray had already done the damage for Stanley, a win that confirmed Football League status for James Beattie's side.

Waddock is now promising changes after a disappointing end to his side's home campaign.

"There was a real lack of hunger and desire," he said.

"It was our final home game of the season, and I wanted to give our supporters something to go into the close season with.

"They've certainly gone into the close season with something, but it wasn't a Gary Waddock team.

"That is not the type of team that I will put together, not the type of team that I will build here, it will be completely opposite."

He added: "It will be a team that will play with hunger and desire, play with some enthusiasm, run and work for one another. That didn't happen, and it's only happened once since I've been here, at the Plymouth game.

"Now I've got a period of time to change it. I've looked at it, I've seen it, I know what needs to happen and it will."

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Accrington took the lead on 18 minutes when Odejayi netted after Ryan Clarke had initially denied Gray, who doubled Stanley's lead early in the second half.

Williams gave United hope when he beat Marcus Bettinelli on 67 minutes, but Waddock's side were unable to push for an equaliser.

United's head coach added: "There was no push from the first to the last whistle, in my opinion, and I genuinely feel for everyone here.

"I said to the players they had a wonderful opportunity this season, with the start they had, to go into the play-offs or gain promotion, and for whatever reason it's dwindled away.

"It will be addressed, make no mistake about that, because that's not the type of team that we want playing for this club."

United will be looking to restore some pride when they make the short trip to relegation-threatened Northampton Town on Saturday for their last game of the season.

Oxford United 1
Accrington Stanley 2

• *Ryan Williams takes on Piero Mingoia during Oxford United's 2-1 defeat to Accrington Stanley (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Clarke bemoans 'rubbish' end to home campaign as U's lose out

OXFORD United stopper Ryan Clarke was delighted to pick up two awards last Saturday, but says he would willingly swap them for a play-off place.

Clarke (right) scooped the Andrew Knapton Supporters Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year awards.

However, United's 2-1 defeat to Accrington Stanley ended their faint hopes of making Sky Bet League Two's play-offs.

The 32-year-old said: "It's nice to get a couple of awards, but I would rather have had an iffy season and we were in the play-offs.

"It's a rubbish end to the season for us."

United have recorded only one win in their last seven, and Clarke believes the slump in form is down to a number of factors.

"We have all had our own opinions in the changing room and I think we have all taken a backward step," he said.

"Maybe it's to do with a little bit of confidence because we're on a bit of a bad run, that's only natural.

"But at the same time I think we have got enough experience to look above that and grind out results, but we just haven't done that in the second half of the season."

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